

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-30. (Canceled)

31. **(Previously Presented)** An actuator unit, comprising

- a piezoelectric actuator (1) disposed in a hollow body (4),
- the hollow body (4) being embodied elastically and prestressing the actuator (1),
- a plurality of recesses (7) formed through the hollow body (4)
- a first seam (31) in the hollow body extending parallel to the longitudinal axis (35), of the hollow body, and
- at least one second seam (33) which is located diametrically opposite the first seam (31), and located selectively at one or both end portions of the hollow body but not medially thereof.

Claims 32-33 (Canceled)

34. **(Previously Presented)** An actuator unit, comprising

- a piezoelectric actuator (1) disposed in a hollow body (4),
- the hollow body (4) being embodied elastically and prestressing the actuator (1),
- a plurality of recesses (7) formed through the hollow body (4),

a first seam (31) in the hollow body extending parallel to the longitudinal axis (35) of the hollow body, and

a first recess formed at least on a first end (17) of the hollow body (4) and located diametrically opposite the first seam (31).

35. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, further comprising a further recess (51), located diametrically opposite the first seam (31) and on a second end (15) of the hollow body (4).

36. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein one recess (53) each is provided on the first end (17) and/or on the second end (15) of the hollow body (4), in the region of the first seam (31).

37. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its first end (17) to an upper cover plate (6) or to an adjusting disk (93).

38. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its first end (17) to an upper cover plate (6) or to an adjusting disk (93).

39. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its first end (17).

40. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its first end (17).

41. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its first end (17) in the upper cover plate (6) in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (37).

42. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its first end (17) in the adjusting disk (93) in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (37).

43. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 39, wherein the hollow body (4) is secured by its first end (17) to the upper cover plate (6) by welding (41).

44. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the contacting of a piezoelectric actuator (1) located in the hollow body (4) is effected via the upper cover plate (6).

45. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 34, wherein the upper cover plate (6) is embodied in two parts (6a, 6b); and wherein a parting seam is present between the two parts (6a, 6b).

46. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 45, wherein the first seam (31) and the second seam (33) open into the parting seam of the upper cover plate (6a, 6b).

47. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a ceramic insulator (43) electrically insulating the upper cover plate (6, 6a, 6b).

48. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a securing clamp (45) or a securing cup holding the upper cover plate (6, 6a, 6b) together.

49. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 44, further comprising a flexible, plastic-bonded metal or a soft solder binding mean between the hollow body (4) and the piezoelectric actuator (1).

50. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is radially fixed on its second end (15).

51. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) is joined on its second end (15) to a lower cover plate (5) or to a coupler housing (86).

52. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 51, wherein the hollow body (4) is fixed radially on its second end (15) in the lower cover plate (5) or in the coupler housing (86), in particular by means of an annular groove (39) or a shoulder (91).

53. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 51, wherein the hollow body (4) is secured by its second end (15) to the lower cover plate (5) by welding (41).

54. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the recesses (7) are embodied in bonelike shape and extend transversely to the longitudinal axis (35) of the hollow body (4).

55. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein a plurality of recesses (7) are located one behind the other in a plane (E_2); and wherein the plane (E_2) forms a right angle with the longitudinal axis (35) of the hollow body (4).

56. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 55, wherein there is an even number of recesses (7) in one plane (E_2).

57. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 55, wherein a plurality of planes (E_i) are provided with recesses (7); and that the planes (E_i) extend parallel to one another.

58. **(Currently amended)** The actuator unit of claim 57, wherein the recesses (7) of two adjacent planes (~~E_1~~ , E_1) are offset (23) from one another.

59. **(Currently amended)** The actuator unit of claim 58, wherein the offset (23) of the recesses (7) of two adjacent planes is equal to half the repeat (21) of the recesses (7) in one plane ~~(E₁)~~ **(E₁)**.

60. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the hollow body (4) has a circular cross section.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the cross section of the hollow body (4) has the form of a regular polygon.

62. **(Previously Presented)** The actuator unit of claim 31, wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is disposed in the hollow body (4); and wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is stressed in compression by the prestressed hollow body (4).

63. **(Previously Presented)** An actuator unit, comprising
a piezoelectric actuator (1) disposed adjacent one end of a hollow body (4),
the hollow body (4) being embodied elastically and being connected to the actuator so
as to prestress the actuator (1),
a plurality of recesses (7) formed through the hollow body (4)
a first seam (31) in the hollow body extending parallel to the longitudinal axis (35), of
the hollow body, and
at least one second seam (33) at least on a first end (17) portion of the hollow body
(4) and located diametrically opposite the first seam (31), wherein the piezoelectric actuator

Appl. No. 10/553,419
Amdt dated December 14, 2007
Responsive to Notice of Allowance of Nov. 30, 2007

(1) is disposed outside the hollow body (4); and wherein the piezoelectric actuator (1) is stressed in compression by the prestressed hollow body (4).